

Application No.: 10/826,641

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Docket No.: 595122001700

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A spinning reel type gaming machine ~~having display means and a game control means arranged to control images of symbols carried on reels and displayed on the display means~~, the gaming machine providing a plurality of pay lines, and being arranged to ~~play a base game in which at least one random event is caused to be displayed on the display means~~ a base game in which images of symbols are spun up on a plurality of reels to present on a display a non-square matrix of symbols, and in which at least five distinct pay lines are defined across the reels and, if a ~~predefined~~ winning event occurs in the base game, including the occurrence of a winning combination of symbols along at least one of the pay lines, the gaming machine awards a prize, and wherein on the occurrence of a ~~predetermined~~ bonus feature triggering event during play of the base game, the gaming machine provides at least one bonus feature, and wherein ~~the a~~ a player of the gaming machine is constrained to wager a single amount on each play of the base game without choice of other wagering options, ~~which the wager provides~~ providing eligibility to all pay lines of the game and eligibility to the at least one bonus feature.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein there is only one button which initiates a play of the base game.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the display ~~means~~ is a video display unit displaying simulations of spinning reels.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one bonus feature is a progressive prize.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the gaming machine has a midtrim on which there is provided only a single start or spin button.

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Claim 6 (previously presented): A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 5 wherein "gamble", "take win", "collect", or "reserve" buttons are also provided on the midtrim.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one bonus feature includes a series of free games.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 7 wherein wins for combinations of symbols in the series of free games are increased relative to wins for the corresponding combinations of symbols in the base game.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A spinning reel type gaming machine as claimed in claim 8 wherein wins for combinations of symbols in the series of free games are multiples of wins awarded for the corresponding combinations of symbols in the base game.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A gaming machine having a display ~~means~~ and arranged to display on the display a plurality of symbols in an array of n rows and m columns, where n and m are ~~2 or more~~ at least 3 and unequal, and a game control ~~means~~ controller arranged to control images displayed on the display ~~means~~, the gaming machine being arranged to play an underlying game in which a prize ~~is paid~~ is paid when a predetermined combination of symbols is displayed in a predetermined arrangement of symbol locations displayed on the display ~~means~~, there being ~~more than one~~ at least five arrangements ~~arrangement~~ of symbol locations for which ~~[[a]]~~ the prize may be paid, and wherein ~~the a~~ a player is constrained to wager a single amount on each play of the underlying game which provides eligibility to win ~~prizes~~ the prize for all arrangements of symbol locations for which ~~[[a]]~~ the prize may be paid, as well as eligibility to ~~any~~ at least one bonus feature ~~features~~ provided in the game without choice of other wagering options.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A gaming machine as claimed in claim 10 wherein there is only one button which initiates a play of the underlying game.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A gaming machine as claimed in claim 10 wherein the at least one bonus feature is a progressive jackpot prize.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): A gaming machine as claimed in claim 10 wherein the at least one bonus feature includes a series of free games.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A gaming machine as claimed in claim 13 wherein wins for combinations of symbols in the series of free games are multiples of wins for the corresponding combinations of symbols in the ~~base~~ underlying game.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A gaming machine as claimed in claim 10 wherein the gaming machine has a midtrim and on which there is provided only a single start or spin button.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A gaming machine as claimed in claim 15 wherein "gamble", "take win", "collect", or "reserve" buttons are also provided on the midtrim.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A game playing apparatus having a display means and being controlled by a game control means, the apparatus being arranged to play an underlying game in which a plurality of symbols is displayed on the display means in an array of n rows and m columns, where n and m are ~~[[2]]~~ 3 or more and unequal, the game playing apparatus being arranged under the control of the game control means to play ~~an~~ the underlying game in which a prize is won when a predetermined combination of symbols is displayed in a predetermined arrangement of symbol locations displayed on the display means, there being ~~more than one arrangement at least five arrangements~~ of symbol locations for which ~~[[a]]~~ the prize may be won, and wherein ~~the~~ a player of the game playing apparatus is constrained to wager a single amount on each play of the underlying game which provides eligibility to win ~~the prize prizes~~ for all arrangements of symbol locations for which ~~[[a]]~~ the prize may be won, as well as eligibility to ~~any bonus features~~ at least one bonus feature provided in the game without choice of other wagering options.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A gaming machine as claimed in claim 17 wherein there is only one button which initiates a play of the underlying game.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A game playing apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the at least one bonus feature is a progressive jackpot prize.

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Claim 20 (currently amended): A gaming machine as claimed in claim 17 wherein the at least one bonus feature includes a series of free games.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A gaming machine as claimed in claim 20 wherein wins for combinations of symbols in the series of free games are multiples of wins for the corresponding combinations of symbols in the ~~base~~ underlying game.

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